

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FCA [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FCA [REDACTED] and I am known as FCA [REDACTED]. My maiden name was FCA [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1961. My contact details are+ [REDACTED] known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in [REDACTED] in Edinburgh. My father was [REDACTED] and my mother was [REDACTED]. They have both now passed away. I have two sisters and a brother and they are [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I am the youngest and [REDACTED] is about a year older than me. I'm not sure how much older [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are, maybe three or four years.
3. I don't have any memories of life with my father and mother, I just know some things from speaking to my siblings in later life.
4. I don't know where we lived, only that it was in Edinburgh somewhere. I later learned from speaking to [REDACTED] that when I was one year old and [REDACTED] was two we all went into a children's home for the first time.
5. Our mother just didn't have motherly instincts. Dad was a fisherman and [REDACTED] told me that when he was away at sea mum used to dope us with something so that we'd be asleep while she went out. [REDACTED] told me that she nearly died from whatever the stuff was that mum had given her.

6. Eventually mum pushed off to America and left all of us. I never knew her and the only reason I know what she must look like is because I'm told that [REDACTED] looks like her.
7. As big as our extended family is, none of them wanted to take us in or help and because dad was out at sea a lot, we were all put into care. I've no idea who would have organised it, but I would imagine it was Edinburgh Corporation or the social work.
8. [REDACTED] told me that I was mainly in care with [REDACTED] although for a short time I was in a home at Clerwood in Edinburgh on my own. She and [REDACTED] had been put to Templedean Children's Home in Haddington and they stayed there, while [REDACTED] and I were moved about different places.
9. At some stages [REDACTED] and I were put with different foster parents in Edinburgh somewhere, but I don't remember any of that, the only ones I can remember slightly were called Mr and Mrs FGY-SPO. They lived in a tall block of flats somewhere in Edinburgh, I don't know where.
10. I liked Mr [REDACTED] he was always gentle and kind, but Mrs FGY didn't like us. I don't know why. Her son was also in the house and they had a black dog called Mandy, which I think was a poodle. The house was always immaculate and I remember [REDACTED] and I slept in a bunkbed and that the room was always cold.
11. I don't know how old I would have been or how long we were there, possibly a couple of weeks, maybe longer, but it was not a happy experience. I don't think Mrs FGY liked children, although her husband did. He was always cuddling [REDACTED] and I and if we were watching the telly there was always one of us at each side of him on the sofa.
12. If it was just Mrs FGY at home we were either in our rooms or sitting down and not talking. If we did talk, Mrs FGY would get a bar of green 'Fairy' soap, prise our mouths open and rub our teeth with the soap. She would also lock us in a broom cupboard in the kitchen. She was a strange person.

13. We weren't allowed to stay indoors, we were always sent outside. I remember one time I was out playing and when I went back [REDACTED] was standing at the door wearing my dress and crying. Mrs FGY [REDACTED] had dressed [REDACTED] in my clothing and put him outside to play. That was mean and I felt sorry for him so we swapped our clothes.
14. A woman, who was possibly called Mrs Wilson and was from social services, was often about. I remember she put us to different places and I remember her coming to the FGY-SPO to see us. I don't know if there was ever any sort of child protection order for us.
15. When I was about five years old [REDACTED] and I were put into Templedean Children's Home in Haddington where [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were. Templedean was a girls' school so after just a couple of weeks [REDACTED] was sent to Ochil Towers School in Auchterarder and for some reason I was sent there with him. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stayed at Templedean and we never saw them again until I was eleven or twelve years old.

Ochil Towers School, Auchterarder

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Ochil Towers School

107. Dad took [REDACTED] out of Ochil Towers before me, when [REDACTED] was twelve or thirteen. By that time dad had already taken [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] out of Templedean as well. I wasn't even told [REDACTED] was leaving, he just went one day and [REDACTED] later told me that he hadn't been told either.
108. Shortly after [REDACTED] left, a couple of months or thereabouts, when I was probably about twelve, I left too and was sent to stay with Mr and Mrs FBX-SPO in Edinburgh. They had retired by that time and were staying at [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] in Edinburgh.
109. I think the Surkamps were wanting Ochil Towers to only be for mentally or physically handicapped children, which is what the Camphill Community is for, so all of us who weren't were put elsewhere.
110. I've heard of kids more recently being given money when they left care, but I got nothing. I left Ochil Towers and was just told to get on a train to Edinburgh, even though I'd never been on a train before.
111. I travelled to Edinburgh and Mr FBX [REDACTED] picked me up and that was it. He and his wife had retired by then and I was told I was to stay with them for a few years.

Foster care with Mr and Mrs [redacted] at [redacted] Edinburgh

112. When they retired, the [redacted] had bought the [redacted] the offices and some land at [redacted] in [redacted] and I think I was with them for between a year-and-a-half and two years.
113. It was never discussed with me, nobody asked me what I wanted. I must have still been under the care of the corporation and I believe that the [redacted] were fostering me, but nobody actually told me and I never saw my social worker Mrs Wilson.
114. I was there to look after the geese, to drive the tractor, to mow the grass and to look after the chickens. At that time, the [redacted] house backed onto [redacted] Park and every weekend I was sent up with the wheelbarrow or the tractor and trailer to pick up all the beer bottles and rubbish that had been thrown in their garden. If there was a mess, I had to clean it up.
115. [redacted] the [redacted] granddaughter, was there as well and I always felt I was just there to make [redacted] look wonderful. [redacted] was a horrid little girl. One time I found there was pee on my pillow and I told Mrs [redacted] about it. I thought their dog must have done it, but that night [redacted] laughed and said she had done it. She filled my schoolbag with cornflakes another day and I got accused of stealing them.
116. We were both sent to the Rudolph Steiner school in Edinburgh and I loved that school. It was a fantastic school, except I couldn't fit in and I felt like an oddball there. I couldn't socialise properly with the other children. I'd never been taught what to say and what not to say and the other kids just thought I was weird. I suppose I was, coming from where I had.
117. I'm not sure where the school was, but I went there by bus and if I missed the bus I'd have to walk home. I remember walking past the army barracks, which were possibly the ones at Redford.

118. Mr ^{FBX} used to sit us down to do our spelling. Whenever got something right she was told what a good girl she was and whenever I got something wrong Mr ^{FBX} would slap me across the side of the head.
119. Dad would come and visit me at the ^{FBX-SPO} and sometimes would come as well, although they didn't come very often.
120. The school started saving up newspapers to fund a trip to Germany and I was really excited about going until, all of a sudden, I was told I was leaving and going to stay with my dad. Nobody told me why, but by that time Mr and Mrs ^{FBX-SPO} were old and they were maybe struggling to look after both and I.

Leaving foster care

121. I was fourteen when I was sent back to stay with my dad and by that time he had a house at Craigshill in Livingston. and were there as well and was living with an aunt in Ladywell.
122. I never saw anyone from the welfare or the social work department. I think that they must have just left me in the care of my dad and had nothing more to do with me. Again, nobody spoke to me, although they maybe spoke with dad, I don't know. I never understood why I was put there. I'd been in care since I was one year old and I was put into this family environment, with people I hardly knew.
123. At first and I slept in bunk beds in the same room until got her own flat and I got her room.
124. I was sent to Craigshill High School in Livingston and that was another culture shock. It was vastly different to the Rudolph Steiner school in Edinburgh and I hardly went.

125. My father, [REDACTED], was supposed to be there to protect me, but he didn't. I'd only been there for about six months when he raped me and after that happened I left home. Dad is dead now and I don't want to say any more about what happened.
126. I went to live in a disused garage for a while, I washed my clothes at the launderette and I had showers at the swimming pool at Craigshill High School because the P.E. teacher there liked me. She could never understand why I was living rough and I couldn't tell her. I thought it was all my fault.
127. I didn't know I could go to people and get help. I didn't think anyone would believe me and I think the embarrassment was such that I don't think I could have told anyone in any case.

Life after being in care

128. I was homeless for nearly a year before I went to work with the [REDACTED] Theatre Company when I was fifteen. I applied for a job as an actor and someone came and picked me up for an interview and I was given a job. It was like a theatre workshop and we went round junior schools, putting on plays for them.
129. Halfway through working for them, two of the bosses, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took me in for a bit until my dad turned up and told me he was taking me to stay with an aunt in Edinburgh.
130. I went to stay with my aunt until she got me a job in [REDACTED] College at [REDACTED] in Perthshire, which was live in. The job was as a domestic, catering and cleaning and I did that for a while before I hitchhiked down to England and moved in with [REDACTED] who by that time was living in Kidderminster. I couldn't get a job at first because I'd walked out of the one at [REDACTED] College because I'd had enough.

131. I knocked on house doors and offered to work as a cleaner and eventually I built up a small business. After a time I applied for a job as a groom and got it. I was basically cheap labour, working as a groom and a farm labourer, but I enjoyed it.
132. After I did that I got a job in an electronics factory and then in the warehouse of a car parts company. After there I got a job with a catalogue company before I went off the shop floor and into their security department. Eventually I got a job with a security company as an area manager and I did that for a year. After that I got a job at [REDACTED] College however I had to give that up after I could no longer work and I was given disability allowances.
133. I was still living in Kidderminster at that time and it was there that I had met my husband [REDACTED] a few years before. We have a daughter [REDACTED] who is now twenty-five and still stays with us.
134. I have always had a pull to move back to Scotland so when I left my job at [REDACTED] College I decided to move back up. We moved to near [REDACTED] in the Borders and we've now been there for about eight years.

Impact

135. It's funny how memory works. I know I have blocked things out, but sometimes things will pop in my head. It's like I have a vault in my head and every so often a memory will break out. I try to keep those memories in and I tell myself I'm just feeling sorry for myself. To me, feeling sorry for myself is weak so I need to keep those memories in to protect myself.
136. I know I was only a child, but it's the embarrassment of what happened to me that's the worst. Even though I was only a child, I wonder why I wasn't able to defend myself and why I didn't say no. I think it's because I'd been shoved around so much, moved about from pillar to post, that I just did as I was told. I was a very passive child.

137. I can't read or watch anything about child abuse because it triggers memories and I cringe. There are still days that I feel filthy, it doesn't matter how often I wash.
138. I have gone through life feeling worthless and very detached from people and I find it hard to socialise. If, for example, I'm invited to a family gathering at Christmas, I always come up with some excuse that I'm too busy. I feel uncomfortable.
139. I used to believe in God, but when things happen, such as happened to me, you lose faith. The way I think, if there was a God, those things wouldn't have happened.
140. There were so many things I wanted to do with my life but couldn't, because I didn't have the qualifications. I wanted to join the army and walked into the recruiting office when I was in Perth. I had to fill a form in that had the easiest general knowledge questions on it, but I couldn't answer them. I pushed the form away and walked out.
141. I have trust issues. Something had happened after my dad died about sixteen years ago and [REDACTED] kept asking me what was wrong. One day she phoned me up and I told her that dad had raped me. After that, my sister [REDACTED] kept asking [REDACTED] why I didn't like dad and eventually [REDACTED] snapped and told her. [REDACTED]'s response was to go round all the rest of the family saying that [REDACTED] and I are liars. I just thought that was me getting the blame again, that it was my fault. It was my fault because I trusted [REDACTED] and I told her.
142. I've had fights with people because of my issues. It can wreck your life if you let it and it's been difficult. Sometimes I used to think that if I wasn't here I wouldn't be a target for anyone.
143. I brought my daughter up totally differently to how I was brought up. She was never going to be me and I always told her from an early age that she had a voice and she shouldn't be afraid to challenge. I won't have any secrets or dishonesty. I used to wake her up in the middle of the night when she was fast to sleep just to hold her, because I knew she was safe and nothing could hurt her.

144. It's only more recently that I have been able to look back and realise I was only a child at the time. I'm still embarrassed, but I am now almost able to accept it wasn't my fault. It's only now that I wonder how anyone could ever harm a child as I was.

Reporting of Abuse

145. I've never spoken to anyone before about what happened to me. I never thought anyone would believe me. When I was growing up, I was never able to have a proper conversation with an adult, at school or anywhere. I always felt I was beneath people and I didn't think anyone would listen.

Records

146. [REDACTED] and I sent for my records and I got some, but I've not been able to look at them. [REDACTED] has read them, although half of what I got was impossible to read. It was like what I was given was a photocopy of a photocopy and a lot of the rest was blanked out. They were terrible.

147.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Lessons to be Learned

148. The only reason I have come forward to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry is because what happened to me shouldn't happen to any child. Children should be told they have a voice. They should know that they can speak to adults and that they will be listened to.
149. I had no help when I left Ochil Towers, the door was just opened and I was chucked out. There's much more now, but children should get more guidance. I had no contact

with social services, perhaps the **FBX-SPO** did, but I never saw anybody. Nobody spoke to me and told me what was happening or gave me any help. I had no life skills when I left and that's what kids need.

150. A child should not be taken out of a place where they will have been institutionalised and thrown straight into a home environment. My family were strangers to me and yet suddenly I was taken out of a place where there were rules and regulations and put somewhere where there was no structure. Children need structure and they need rules.
151. Social services had no contact with me when I left at fourteen. Just because a child is not in care doesn't mean they shouldn't be looked after. They should be checked up on all the time until they are eighteen.
152. I hope there is a drastic change to the way children are looked after in care. Social workers have an enormous workload and are expected to have empathy for each child, but they have no back up. They need to have manageable caseloads and there needs to be a recognition that children are our future.

Other information

153. My sister **██████** told me more recently that our father had paid for **██████** and I to go to Ochil Towers. I don't know, but I suppose he may have and he may also have got help from the social services.
154. I went back to Ochil Towers once and it's still run by the Camphill Community and looking after children with special needs. I felt so uncomfortable though because everything had changed.
155. My siblings and I have all done DNA tests recently and found out that **██████████████** is actually only **██████**'s natural father. **██████** **██████** and I had a different father, but we never knew that before.

156. I haven't spoken to my sister [REDACTED] in over thirty-five years. She is a narcissist and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] don't have any contact with her either.
157. Sometimes I wish I'd never gone to Ochil Towers and sometimes I'm glad that I did. If I hadn't gone, I wouldn't have the good memories of the childhood that I had, but if I hadn't gone I wouldn't have the bad ones either.
158. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

FCA

Signed..

Dated.....

15-12-2020